

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 07305 111454Z

44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 098758

P R 111419Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9866

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

S E C R E T AMMAN 7305

EXDIS

FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS JO US RO

SUBJECT: ROMANIAN INTEREST IN JORDANIAN TANK

REF: STATE 295288

1. I CALLED ON KING HUSSEIN DECEMBER 11 AND INFORMED HIM FULLY OF CONTENTS PARA 1 REFTEL, TO EFFECT THAT USG NOT RPT NOT IN POSITION TO GRANT APPROVAL FOR JORDAN TO LEND U.S. TANK TO ROMANIA OR ALLOW ROMANIANS INSPECT U.S. TANK IN JORDAN. (KING HAD BEEN TIED UP UNTIL DEC 11 WITH VISIT BY PRESIDENT ASAD AND RECOVERING FROM COLD.)

2. KING SEEMED TO EXPECT THIS NEGATIVE ANSWER AND SHOWED NO ADVERSE REACTION. HE COMMENTED THAT ROMANIAN REQUEST WAS INDEED A "CURIOUS" ONE AND THAT HE APPRECIATED GETTING A RESPONSE FROM USG TO IT.

3. KING DID NOT RPT NOT RAISE QUESTION (PARA 2 REFTEL) OF WHAT USG RESPONSE WOULD BE IF ROMANIANS APPROACHED US ON SUBJECT DIRECTLY AND I DID NOT VOLUNTEER INFORMATION IN THAT REGARD.

4. KING SIAD THAT HE HAS NOT SET A DEFINITE DATE FOR A VISIT TO ROMANIA BUT, WITHOUT BEING SPECIFIC, KING
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ADDED THAT HE THOUGHT ROMANIANS ARE "COOKING UP

SOMETHING." KING SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED SUBJECT BRIEFLY WITH PRESIDENT ASAD DURING ASAD'S RECENT VISIT TO JORDAN AND ASAD TOLD HIM ROMANIANS HAVE ALSO BEEN MAKING APPROACHES TO SARG FOR A VISIT. KING SAID HE AND ASAD HAD AGREED TO CONTINUE TO LOOK INTO THE ROMANIAN VISIT PROPOSALS.

5. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF RECENT ARAFAT VISIT, AND PROJECTED VISIT BY PROMINENT JEWISH FIGURE NATHAN GOLDMAN TO ROMANIA (BUCHAREST 7265) PLUS INDICATIONS (BUCHAREST 7277) OF A VISIT BY SYRIAN PRIME MINISTER LATER IN DECEMBER, WE PRESUME ROMANIANS ARE INTERESTED IN PROMOTING SOME MOVEMENT ON ARAB-ISRAELI NEGOTIATING ISSUE.
SUDDARTH

SECRET

NNN

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